

# Korea

Health at a Glance provides the latest comparable data and trends on population health and health system performance. This Country Note shows how Korea compares to other OECD countries across indicators in the report.

## How does Korea perform overall?

This section shows key indicators, and also how often Korea is above the OECD average on relevant indicators (where data are available for Korea).

### Health status



#### Key indicators:

Life expectancy was 83.6 years, 3.3 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 99 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 43 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 13.8% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was similar to the OECD average.

**Korea performs better than the OECD average on 75% of indicators**

(Based on 16 indicators, data missing for 3 indicators)

### Risk factors



#### Key indicators:

Smoking prevalence, at 15.4%, was close to the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was lower than the OECD average; at 7.7 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 7.0%, lower than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 42.7 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

**Korea performs better than the OECD average on 73% of indicators**

(Based on 11 indicators, data missing for 2 indicators)

### Quality of care



#### Key indicators:

Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 3.3% (OECD average 7.8%), and 8.4% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 375 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, less than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Korea prescribed more antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 70% of women were screened for breast cancer, more than the OECD average of 55%.

**Korea performs better than the OECD average on 50% of indicators**

(Based on 26 indicators, data missing for 7 indicators)

### Access to care



#### Key indicators:

All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 78% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 62% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was lower than the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 29% of health expenditure, was higher than the OECD average of 18%. No comparable data is available on unmet needs.

**Korea performs better than the OECD average on 45% of indicators**

(Based on 11 indicators, data missing for 7 indicators)

### Health system resources



#### Key indicators:

Korea spends \$4570 per capita on health, similar to the OECD average of \$4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 9.7% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 2.6 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 8.8 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Korea has 12.8 hospital beds per 1,000 population, more than the OECD average of 4.3.

**Korea is above the OECD average on 41% of indicators**

(Based on 27 indicators, data missing for 5 indicators)

Note: Overall comparisons of health status, risk factors, access, quality and resources are unweighted and therefore not measures of performance; OECD averages for quality of care are based on Chapter 1 (and differ slightly from averages in Chapter 6 due to differences in country coverage)

# On which indicators does Korea perform well or badly?

The graphs below show selected indicators from *Health at a Glance 2023* where the performance of Korea deviates markedly from the OECD on average. For more details on the data presented, please refer to the full report, using the graph references provided (e.g. g5.1).

**Korea:** ● Better ● Worse ● Higher ● Lower ● OECD average ● Other OECD countries

